

The administration calls this the “unified agenda,” which includes 15 new “major” rules—those that cost at least \$100 million annually to our economy.

It’s these “major” rules that my bill addresses directly.

How does it actually work?

The bill establishes a responsible process for federal agencies to identify, review, and, if necessary, put major regulations that are no longer needed and serve no beneficial purpose on a path to elimination.

And I want to make sure the public—who are directly affected by bad regulations—have a say.

Under my bill, agencies overseeing these major rules will be required to consider the comments of the public, the regulated community, and Congress with regard to the costs and burdens of rules under review.

This will help them determine which rules need to go.

The agencies would then establish a review process to “sunset” bad rules.

The head of each agency would designate an existing employee as the Regulatory Review Officer, charged with implementing the sunset review.

Six months later, the Administrator would publish a first list of major rules, and then an updated list annually.

The agency would be charged with issuing reports to Congress about rules they reviewed.

But some rules are still bad for individuals and businesses even if they fall under the \$100 million cost.

The public and congressional committees would be able to petition agencies to review these rules as well.

This would ensure less-major, but no-less-harmful, regulations could be considered for elimination.

And if an agency claims it cannot change or get rid of a regulation because it is bound by congressional statute, then they would have to recommend to Congress what we can do to change the law.

This ensures a transparent review process that leads to actual regulatory reform.

We must act now to lend a hand to our struggling economy.

Federal agencies, mostly unaccountable to the people they regulate, should review and remove regulations that hurt American businesses and individuals.

My bill exposes duplicative and obsolete regulations to the public, placing them on a path to elimination.

My colleagues are hearing from their constituents about the harm excessive regulations are having on them.

And the Regulatory Sunset and Review Act of 2013 now has 61 co-sponsors.

We’re seeing a real desire to put regulations under closer scrutiny than they’ve traditionally had.

Mr. Speaker, our job creators need all the help they can get.

Small businesses and startups should spend their time hiring workers and growing their business, instead of wasting time playing defense against an aggressive federal government.

Let’s defend and extend the sphere of freedom, freedom to pursue the American Dream without government on your back.

H.R. 309 gets us heading in that direction.

I urge the House to take up this legislation in the New Year.

#### CELEBRATING THE U.S. NATIONAL GUARD’S 377TH BIRTHDAY

##### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the United States National Guard as they celebrate 377 years of selfless sacrifice to our great nation.

The National Guard pre-dates all other active U.S. military branches. On December 13, 1636, what we have come to know as the National Guard was formed as a colonial militia, made up of ordinary citizens who stood to protect their communities. From their service in the Revolutionary War where they stood their ground during the opening shots at Lexington Green and Concord Bridge, to valiantly fighting in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Guard has participated in every major American conflict. All Guardsmen are combat-trained, and while abroad they serve in combat missions, build schools and hospitals, and train local peacekeepers.

National Guard members have established a proud history and tradition of service in all 50 states, organized territories, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Today’s force is comprised of both Army and Air Force divisions and has grown to nearly 500,000 soldiers strong.

The National Guard in my home state of Georgia will hold a special celebration at Clay National Guard Center, giving special recognition to its retirees, Maj. Gen. Jim Butterworth, Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrard, and displaying many of its units’ specialized training.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere gratitude that I extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to our servicemen and women in the National Guard for their sacrifice and hard work to protect our way of life.

#### TIME TO BRING OUR TROOPS HOME FROM AFGHANISTAN

##### HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, 12 years ago on September 11, 2001, al Qaeda terrorists trained and supported by Osama bin Laden from Afghanistan attacked and murdered nearly 3,000 Americans.

Shortly after that horrible day, American armed forces struck back in Afghanistan. Our troops have performed brilliantly and have significantly damaged al Qaeda terrorists’ operations and brought the ultimate justice to bin Laden. At the same time our troops have shed their blood to provide the Afghan people with the opportunity to break from the tyranny of the Taliban and achieve freedom and liberty.

In recent months, our government has offered the additional opportunity provided by a bi-lateral security agreement which would keep American forces in that country beyond

2014. To date, Afghan President Karzai has refused to sign that agreement.

I believe that agreement should be withdrawn and President Obama should bring our forces home by the end of next year. Our troops have performed brilliantly. And now it is time for the Afghan people to step up and secure their own nation. We have offered freedom and democracy to Afghans and they must either choose to take it or not. And it is time for our troops to come home.

#### CELEBRATING THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT JAMES’ 125TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Episcopal Church of Saint James, located in Essex County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 125th anniversary.

The Episcopal Church of St. James began as a small, sixteen person group in 1887 lead by Reverend P.M. Bleecker. As the group grew, a Missionary Committee was established and, at the suggestion of the Bishop, the name “St. James Church, Upper Montclair” was adopted. Within that year, the congregation would grow to consist of 45 people. On December 12, 1888, the Bishop gave canonical permission to form a Parish in the Diocese of Newark. On December 27 of that same year, the Articles of Association were signed. The next day the articles were filed and the church became official.

Around the same time, the church purchased the “Cliffside Chapel” from a nearby Presbyterian Church, which now serves as the cornerstone of the current church.

In 1892, an Alter Guild was formed to attend to the clerical vestments and appointments of the altar. That same year, the Rood Screen was added to the Chancel, and gas was introduced for lighting. The first Vested Choir began in 1898, two members of which continued to sing for the church for over forty years.

In 1902, the church organ was not functioning properly because the building lacked electricity. Later that year, a pipe organ was anonymously donated to replace it. Ten years later, the church ordered a new organ, which was so large they had to modify the roof to fit it.

In 1941, the Willet Studios of Philadelphia began to commission the stained glass windows for the church. That same year, the church installed the Hildreth Meiere painting of James and John fishing over the altar. By 1956, the “Windows of St. James” were completed.

Since the church was built, the congregation has significantly grown. So, the church has developed many programs and groups to help its members. These programs include Youth Groups, Bible Studies, Adult Education, as well as a pre-school.

The church also participates in community service and outreach locally, nationally, and internationally. They work with many organizations to send their congregation, along with others who are interested, on missionary trips to various places in need of aid. Previous trips have been to Appalachia and New Orleans.